

THE GENERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?

1 Cor 15:12-20

Church of Corinth--believers who believed in resurrection of Christ but not our resurrection. Paul's point: Both true

Christ rose from dead and mankind will rise.

Both stand or fall together.

Consequences of denial of bodily resurrection. I will mean that...

1. Christ still in grave. 1 Cor. 15:12

How say some among you..? How come some of you are saying...

Off shoots:

1. Soul Sleep
2. Annihilation of the body
3. Reincarnation
4. Absorption
5. Dualism

Job 19:26; Psa 17:15; Dan. 12:2; Jn 11:25; Acts 4:1-2; 1 Thess 4:16; 2 Cor 4:14

Mac: In all those views, human personhood and individuality are forever lost at death. Whatever; if anything, survives is no longer a person, no longer an individual, no longer a unique being.

Paul's logic:

- If no such thing as bodily resurrection then Christ hasn't risen.
- In order to prove bodily resurrection Paul documents resurrection of Christ.

Institute for Gnostic Studies, June 2000: his resurrection illustrated how death and matter could be overcome. It is irrelevant whether Jesus physically came back from the dead or not, since the Gnostics and Jesus have such contempt for matter, it seems highly unlikely that the resurrection had much to do with a re-enlivened corpse. It was an awakening to light, a Transfiguration rather than some ghastly re-animation

Result of this conclusion is utter despair and discouragement.

2. Preaching and faith vain. 1 Cor. 15:14

A. Vain preaching: Since Jesus didn't rise...lost credibility ...Can't offer hope.

B. Vain faith: Everything Jesus said unravels in its credibility if He didn't rise from the dead as promised.

3. All witnesses and testifiers are liars. 1 Cor. 15:15

We are found: Proven to be

False witnesses of God. Guilty of misrepresenting a holy God.

... *testified of God*— “against” God

If the dead rise not— If there is no resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:16 repeat verse 13. Of utmost importance!

4. All men would still be in their sins. 1 Cor. 15:17

Still under condemnation for sins.

Ye are yet in your sins: ... still unforgiven, unpardoned sinners. Romans 4:25

If Jesus still in grave ...would make Him a liar & imposter

Barnes: If he has not been raised from the dead, there is a presumption that he has been put to death justly; and, if so, consequently he has made no atonement; and ye are yet in your sins—under the power, guilt, and condemnation of them.

Important facts for those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ.

1. Sins are forgiven

2. Evidence --not under the authority and power of sin. Romans 8:11

5. All former believers would have perished. 1 Cor. 15:18

Fallen asleep in Christ: Reference to death of believers.

Refers to body of born again believers. Doesn't refer to souls.... soul sleep

Perished: destroyed, abolished; not saved.

Whole picture when deny resurrection

- Loved ones and friends destroyed forever
- Pious and saintly mothers, fathers and friends perish forever
- Expectations are misleading, untrue and unreal

Barnes: ...destroyed with the profane, the impure, and the sensual.

Clarke: Their bodies are dissolved in the earth, finally decomposed and destroyed, notwithstanding the promise of Christ to such, that he would raise

6. All Christians would be miserable. 1 Cor. 15:19

If Jesus still in grave, why waste time?

You are miserable person if placing faith and trust in a dead person

... *most miserable*. To be pitied.

If, in this life, we have no other hope and confidence but in Christ, (and if he be still dead, and not yet risen), we are more to be pitied than any other men; we are sadly deceived; we have denied ourselves, and been denied by others; have mortified ourselves, and been persecuted by our fellow creatures on account of our belief and hope in One who is not existing, and therefore can neither succor us here, nor reward us hereafter. Bishop Pearce.

1 Cor. 15:20 ... *first-fruits*. Reference to first sheaf of ripe grain required to be offered to Lord and waved before Him as expression of gratitude ...recognizing fact that God had full rights to harvest. Lev. 23:10-14.

Firstfruits:

1. First in beginning
2. First part of whole --the rest is to come. Pledge or earnest of entire harvest to come.

Of them that slept—Of pious dead 1 Cor. 15:6.

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2. Preaching and faith vain.
3. All witnesses and testifiers are liars.
4. All men still in sins.
5. All former believers perished.
6. All Christians miserable.